The CASE *of ſeveral of their Majeſties Loyal Subjects very much Oppreſſed, contrary to the Laws of this Land (as they are adviſed) humbly repreſented to the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes in Parliament Aſſembled.*

1. *BY Act of Parliament in the Year 1663. 400. Hackney Coachmen were Licenſed to Ply in and about the Cities of* London *and* Weſtminſter *during that Parliament, and until the firſt Seſſions of the next Parliament and no longer, except continued.*

2. *The ſaid Parliament being Diſſolved, and another called and Diſſolved, and nothing done in that Affair, the Act expired.*

3. *We the number of* 100. *Ancient Coachmen, who have ſerved Perſons of Honour, and Gentlemen of Quality, all of us Loyal Subjects, and many of us ſufferers for our Loyalty and Affections to King* Charles *the Firſt, of ever Bleſſed Memory, preſented our Petition to the then next Parliament, praying, for the Reaſons following, to be Added to the* 400. *formerly Licenſed.*

Reaſons; 1. That the Buildings and the Inhabitants were ſo much increaſed, that there was more occaſion for 500. than for 400. when the Act was made.

2. That we being Ancient Coachmen bred up only to that Imploy, and had no other way to get Bread for our ſelves and poor Families.

3. That we ſuppoſing that after the expiration of the aforeſaid Act of Parliament, the ſame liberty might extend to us that all other Coachmen had, did lay out all our little Subſtance in buying Coach, Horſes, and other Conveniencies for our Calling, and accordingly followed our Calling until about *May* 1683. We were by an Act of Common Council prohibited from letting our Coaches to Hire in the City and Liberties of *London*, and had ſeveral of our Coaches ſeized and carried to the *Green-Yard*, and forced to redeem them with Fines, ſome 20*s.* others 40*s.* and ſome 50*s.* and ſome have paid 5 *l.* in ten days time: Others have been ſold by them both Coach and Horſes, according to the will and pleaſure of thoſe Arbitrary Law-makers, ſome of our Perſons impriſoned, and then Fined as they were pleaſed.

4. And by the exerciſe of this Cruelty upon us, the Coachmen pretended to be Licenſed by the Common Councel, did joyn together, and appoint 27. of their Number to meet, and hold Conſults for raiſing of Money amongſt themſelves to ſuppreſs and ruine us in our Callings in the City and Liberty of *Weſtminſter* alſo, and did with Money hire Men and keep us from our imploy untill we did make our Agrievances known by our humble Petition to his moſt Gracious Majeſty King *Charles* the 2*d.* of ever Bleſſed Memory; and the better to effect their deſign to ruine us, they have raiſed ſeveral great ſums of Money.

That after the death of his Majeſty King *Charles* the 2d. the ſaid 400. endeavouring ſtill to ſuppreſs and deſtroy us the 100. Obtained a Grant from his late Majeſty King *James* the 2 d. to be executed by five Commiſſioners (moſt of whom were known Papiſts) to whom they advanced 1000 *l. per annum.* more, and over and above what the Act of Parliament allowed; and conſtituted 16. Undertakers or chief Managers to proſecute us, obtained a Proclamation to be iſſued forth for us within Ten days time to put off our Coaches, Horſes, and Trade, to the utter ruin of many of us, not being ſuffered to follow our Callings, and being indebted to ſeveral Tradeſmen that came preſently upon us for their Money.

That ſeveral of the 400. are *Vintners*, *Inkeepers*, and ſeveral other Trades and Employments, ſome have Eſtates, others have ſold, forfeited, and loſt their right to the ſame, ſo that it is verily believed that not one half that had the firſt Right by Act of Parliament, have any juſt Title to the ſame at this time; So that their Quallifications are humbly ſubmitted to this Honourable Houſe to Enquire into and Determine as they ſhall think fit, the 100. being truly Qualified according to the intent and meaning of the late Act of Parliament, as by their ſeveral Certificates at large appears.

And laſtly, we the Oppreſſed have, to our ruins, ſtood ſeveral Suits with the ſaid 400. and in all the ſaid Suits caſt them (unleſs in one Caſe ſince the time of the Popiſh Commiſſion Mr. *Powis* the Attorney-General granted a *Noli Proſeq*;) but now our ſmall Subſiſtance being ſpent, and they having a great ſtock of Money, we muſt ſuffer under their Proſecution, unleſs prevented by the Goodneſs of this Parliament, Who have the Abſolute power of ſettling this Affair.

Wherefore we moſt humbly beſeech Your Honours to take the Premiſes into Your Serious Conſideration, That when our Petition ſhall be preſented unto You, You will pleaſe to Vouchſafe us Relief according as Your Wiſdom ſhall ſeem meete; And we and all the reſt, as in Duty bound, ſhall ever Pray, &c.

Thomas Johnſon, John Paine,
Edward Battes, Will. Atkins,
Nicholas Maſh.

79997